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Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00
OES-07 IGA-02 /104 W
----------002232 231309Z /44
R 230836Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9627
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BG
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: DACCA 7212

1. USADB CONSIDERABLY CONCERNED AT USAID DACCA'S INDICATION THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ADB AND THE USAID MISSION IN DACCA IS INADEQUATE. WE THEREFORE RAISED DACCA'S CONCERN WITH THE RESPONSIBLE ADB STAFF IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE COORDINATION WOULD BE IMPROVED. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC CASE REFERRED TO IN REFTEL, DACCA MAY BE INTERESTED IN ADB'S STAFF EXPLANATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW.

2. ACCORDING TO MR. G. KAHL, SENIOR OPERATIONS OFFICER AND MEMBER OF PROJECT MISSION, HE PERSONALLY TRIED TO
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MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH AID OFFICIALS DURING APPRAISAL MISSION OF AUGUST 1977. UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO TIME CONFLICTS MEETING DID NOT MATERIALIZE. USAID WAS INFORMED THAT ADB MISSION WOULD RETURN TO BANGLADESH SHORTLY.

3. ADB STAFF DID MEET WITH MR. RADI ON OCTOBER 4.

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ADB'S MISSION LEADER V.M. NAIR RECALLS DIS-
CUSSING IN DETAIL THE PROS AND CONS OF THE FISH SEED SUBPROJECT
IN PARTICULAR AS WELL AS THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.
ACCORDING TO THE MISSION LEADER, USAID DACCA WAS IN-
FORMED THAT OUT OF 100 EXISTING FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION
FARMS, ADB WOULD BE INVOLVED WITH HALF AND THAT THERE
WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REHABILITATE THE
REMAINING FARMS. IN ADDITION, USAID DACCA REPORTEDLY WAS
INFORMED OF THE NAME OF EXECUTING AGENCY THAT WAS
SELECTED AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE
AQUACULTURE PROJECT BY THE ADB BOARD. THE ADB'S MISSION
LEADER WAS QUITE EMPHATIC IN STRESSING THAT THE VISIT
WAS NOT A COURTESY CALL AND THAT ALL THE IMPORTANT
ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT WERE DISCUSSED IN WHAT HE
CONSIDERED TO BE A FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE MEETING.

4. OPERATION OFFICER KAHL HAS STATED THAT ADB
EFFORTS TO COORDINATE WITH USAID DACCA WERE INDEPENDENT OF
UNDP QUERY. HE EXPRESSED GREAT SURPRISE AT USAID DACCA'S
SUGGESTION THAT ADB CONTACTED UNDP AT THE LAST MINUTE.
FURTHERMORE, MR. KAHL STATES THAT UNDP HAS BEEN INFORMED
OF ADB'S INTEREST IN AQUACULTURE SECTOR AS EARLY AS THE
SPRING OF 1976 DURING ADB'S PROJECT IDENTIFICATION MISSION
AND THAT ADB/UNDP RELATIONS ARE "VERY GOOD."

5. USADB COMMENT: THE BANK'S CONSULTANT (WHO VISITED
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BANGLADESH APRIL 1977) CLEARLY WAS REMISS IN NOT
INFORMING ADB ABOUT AID DACCA'S REQUEST TO BE KEPT
APPRISED OF THE AQUACULTURE PROJECT. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF VIEW
REGARDING THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE OCTOBER 4
MEETING BETWEEN ADB AND AID OFFICIALS. ONE OF THE
CHIEF CAUSES OF THE APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION WAS
THE EXECUTING AGENCY'S DECISION TO PERMIT TWO DONORS TO
WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE SAME PROJECT. IN THIS CON-
NECTION WE WONDER IF IN FUTURE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF
USAID TOOK INITIATIVE IN CONTACTING CONCERNED BDG
AGENCIES, TO FIND OUT WHEN OTHER DONORS ARE GOING TO
MAKR PROJECT VISITS IN AREAS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO
AID.

6. RE DACCA'S PROPOSAL THAT ADB ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICE
IN BANGLADESH, ADB MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN PRESSED IN THIS
DIRECTION BY SEVERAL DONOR DIRECTORS, MOST NOTABLY THAT
OF THE UK. TO DATE BANK MANAGEMENT HAS RESISTED,
AND QUITE FRANKLY HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE USADB, ON
THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD ESTABLISH PRECEDENT THAT
WOULD SPREAD TO OTHER DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES

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AND LEAD TO GROWTH OF AN UNNECESSARY BANK BUREAUCRACY.
IF COORDINATION QUESTION REMAINS MAJOR PROBLEM, WE
WOULD BE PREPARED TO REVIEW OUR POSITION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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